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**A PROVOCATIVE SALLY
OF PEKING AUTHORITIES**

Events on the Soviet-Chinese border

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As reported in the Soviet press, on March 2 the Chinese authorities organised an armed provocation on the Soviet-Chinese border near the island of Damansky on the Ussuri river. Facts show that this was a pre-planned attack on Soviet frontier guards who protected the state border of the USSR. The course of events shows that the Peking authorities had deliberately perpetrated this armed provocation with the aim to further aggravating the Soviet-Chinese relations, once again raising a wave of violent anti-Sovietism in China, and kindling chauvinistic feelings to suit the adventurist great-power aspirations of Mao Tse-tung and his group.

The attack was preceded by repeated violations of the Soviet state border on the part of Chinese servicemen, particularly near the island of Damansky.

At 11 a.m. (4 a.m. Moscow time) on March 2, Soviet observation posts reported to the frontier post that an armed unit of Chinese servicemen was heading for the area of Damansky island from the Chinese bank. A group of Soviet

frontier guards went out to meet them. Eight frontier guards led by an officer marched forward to remonstrate to the Chinese trespassers and to demand, as on previous occasions, that they leave Soviet territory. When the frontier guards approached the trespassers, the latter perfidiously opened point-blank fire without warning. At the same time the rest of the group of Soviet frontier guards was spattered with fire from ambush and from the Chinese bank where a battery of anti-tank guns, mortars, anti-tank grenade launchers and large-calibre machine-guns had been concentrated.

Soviet frontier guards assumed a battle formation and, together with the reserve that moved in from the frontier post, beat back the surprise attack and then resolutely drove the Chinese trespassers away from Soviet territory.

The Soviet frontier guards performed their military duty with honour. They did not spare their lives in action and showed great courage and heroism in defending the frontiers of this country.

No sooner had the raiders stopped shooting than Peking's entire propaganda machine was got under way to support the monstrous provocation. The press, radio and army instructors began to condition the population of China, resorting to gross lies and slander as regards the Soviet Union. Peking had prepared, well in advance, the version that the Chinese unit "was attacked" and took measures of "self-defence." This is not the first time the world

witnesses such provocative actions by Mao Tse-tung and his group and their attempts to cover up their deeds by propaganda.

But the facts are irrefutable. The traces of the bandit raid cannot be erased. The raiders fled, abandoning items of their outfit, telephone communication and even bottles of liquor with which the Chinese provocateurs had supplied the participants in this venture. Peking propaganda gives itself away when it tries to justify the armed provocation on the Soviet-Chinese border by laying claims to Soviet territory, particularly to Damansky island. But the attack was made against Soviet frontier guards who protected Soviet land.

This criminal act of the Mao Tse-tung group, which cost several men their lives, pursued far-reaching aims.

By fanning up anti-Soviet hysteria and chauvinistic frenzy in China, the Maoists are trying to create an atmosphere that would allow them to strengthen their positions inside the country and to consolidate Mao Tse-tung's great-power, adventurist course aimed at further worsening relations with the CPSU and the Soviet Union, with other Communist and Workers' Parties and socialist countries.

What the Mao group plans to do is obvious—to use anti-Soviet psychosis to carry on subversive, splitting activities in the international communist movement. The Maoists are obviously out to hinder the convocation of the international conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, to sow mistrust for the Soviet

Union and the CPSU among the fraternal parties. The line of anti-Sovietism stems from the fact that in the activities of the CPSU and in the policy of the Soviet Union the Mao group sees the main obstacle in the way of realising its adventurist, hegemonic aspirations in the international arena.

The new dangerous provocations of the Maoists also testify to their desire to step up their unprincipled political flirting with the imperialist states—above all the USA and Federal Germany. It is noteworthy that the Maoists timed their armed bandit raid on the Soviet-Chinese border to Bonn's provocative undertaking—the presidential elections in West Berlin.

Mao Tse-tung and his henchmen made the dirty attack on the Soviet Union at a time when the US aggression in Vietnam continues, when the courageous Vietnamese people are upholding the cause of freedom and independence. In this struggle the Soviet Union and other socialist countries render the Vietnamese people big and constant assistance and support. The present Peking leadership must have reached the limit of political degradation and treachery against the forces of world socialism in the anti-imperialist struggle, if they could have committed such an act of perfidious provocation against a socialist country!

The provocation near Damansky island is a part of the Maoists' policy aimed at speeding up the current radical reorientation of the foreign and home policy of the People's Republic

of China and ultimately turning the PRC into a force hostile to the socialist countries.

And not only to them. Events in recent years have shown that the chauvinistic hegemonic aims of Mao and his group underlie also Peking's policy in relation to other neighbouring states and the whole of Asia. Everywhere, the Maoists are demonstrating their expansionist strivings and are seeking to sow poisonous seeds of enmity among peoples and states.

This is why only the forces of imperialist reaction are rejoicing at the malevolent deeds of Maoist provocateurs.

The Mao Tse-tung group's ventures in the field of foreign policy are directly connected with their domestic policy aimed at establishing a military-bureaucratic regime in China. It is common knowledge that this is precisely the reason why the so-called cultural revolution is being carried out in China, which consists of nothing but terroristic reprisals against Chinese Communists and all who hold dear the cause of socialism in China and of fraternal friendship with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

The Mao group is encountering resistance from the Chinese people and above all from the Communists, who remain faithful to the decisions of the 8th Congress of the Communist Party of China and to the principles of proletarian internationalism. The Maoists are haunted by the fear that the Chinese people may bring them to book for all the misfortunes

they have brought to the country, for breaking up the Communist Party of China, for committing acts of mass bloody terror and persecution and for undermining the very foundations of socialism in China.

The Mao group cannot conceal the fact that it had failed to stamp out the ideas of socialism, of Marxism-Leninism from the minds of the people during the notorious "cultural revolution." Nor did it succeed in erasing from the hearts of Chinese working people their fraternal feelings for the Soviet people and the Soviet Communist Party which rendered mighty support and all-round assistance to the Chinese people both in their revolutionary struggle and in socialist construction.

It is well-known that the "cultural revolution" also led to serious economic upheavals in China. It worsened the plight of the Chinese economy, undermined as it was by Mao's voluntarist course, which found expression in the "big leap" and in the establishment of "people's communes." Industrial production in the country is down, with transport disorganized. Agriculture is in a bad state. The Chinese people have been on a starvation diet for many years. Science, culture and education of the popular masses are being replaced by the stupefying propaganda of "Mao's ideas."

In these conditions, the Maoists have little hope of winning the confidence of the masses. In order to keep the people in check and to get them obediently to serve their great-power and hegemonic aspirations, Mao and his group

are foisting on the country a militarist order typical of reactionary regimes, poisoning the conscience of people with the venom of nationalism and chauvinism. Constitutional organs of people's power are disbanded and replaced by "revolutionary committees" run by military stooges of the Mao group. Military control and supervision have spread not only to the sphere of management, but also to that of production, culture and ideology.

The militarisation of all spheres of life in China is accompanied by the whipping up of military hysteria on the preposterous pretext that China is being threatened with attack by the Soviet Union. It is not difficult to see that the stirring up of this hysteria has been prompted by an attempt on the part of Mao and his group to conceal their real aims from the Chinese people, to distract the latter's attention from the outrages being perpetrated by the Maoists, to create, under the name of the Communist Party of China, a new political organisation which will be an instrument of the military and bureaucratic regime and to turn the people away from criticism of the harmful consequences of the implementation of the "great helmsman's ideas." That was precisely why an impudent provocation near the island of Damansky was necessary, which was followed by a new round of rabid anti-Soviet propaganda.

Beginning with March 3, the Soviet Embassy in Peking has again been under organised siege carried out by specially trained detach-

ments of Maoists. What is more, the Mao group is openly calling for a struggle against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, making absurd territorial claims on the USSR.

This is the situation in which Mao and his group are making preparations for the so-called 9th Congress of the Communist Party of China, which they need to "legalise" the military and bureaucratic regime which they call a "new order" and to "consolidate" the great-power, chauvinistic course, which is hostile to the cause of peace and socialism.

These days Soviet people, who have a right to feel anger and indignation at the criminal actions of Maoist provocateurs, are voicing vigorous protests against their impudent sally on the Soviet-Chinese border and against the campaign of hatred and slander fanned by the Maoists, a campaign hostile to the Soviet people and to the cause of socialism. Soviet men and women say that the borders of their great socialist motherland are sacred and inviolable. They are drawing appropriate conclusions from the insolent provocations of the Peking leaders, enhancing their revolutionary vigilance and strengthening in every way the might of their country—the bulwark of peace and socialism.

The Soviet people, of course, have never identified the Mao group with the Chinese people. Soviet people realise that the Chinese people and the Communist Party of China are going through a tragic period of their history. Following the principles of proletarian internationalism, the Communist Party of the Soviet

Union and the Soviet Government have repeatedly come out for the normalisation of state relations with the People's Republic of China, guided by feelings of friendship for the Chinese people.

At the same time, however, as the Soviet Government's protest Note to the Government of the People's Republic of China says in connection with the brazen-faced armed invasion within the limits of Soviet territory, provocative actions by Chinese authorities will meet with rebuff on the part of the Soviet Union and be resolutely cut short.

This is the firm will of the entire Soviet people.